AFTER ALLOWANCE AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §

1.312

A complete listing of the current pending claims is provided and supersedes all previous claim listing(s). Claim 16 is currently amended to correct a grammatical error. The remaining claims remain unchanged. No new matter has been added.

1.   (Previously Presented) A method of saving data within a persistent data space of a hearing aid, the method comprising the steps of:

processing an input signal by a processor according to a predetermined algorithm to generate a processed output signal,

generating a first data set, representing a value or values of one or several hearing aid associated variable(s), by the processor,

writing the first data set to a respective storage areas within the persistent data space,

generating a second data set, representing an updated value or values of the one or several hearing aid associated variable(s), by the processor,

writing the second data set to a different respective storage area within the persistent data space, and

indicating one of the first and second data sets as a valid data set, by setting a value of at least one data variable in the persistent data space.

2.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the processor reads the value of the at least one data variable during power on of the hearing aid to identify and load the valid data set of the plurality of data sets.

3.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of data sets are written to their respective storage areas in an intermittent manner.

4.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of data sets are written to the persistent data space during normal operation of the hearing aid.

5.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of data sets comprise respective data representing accumulated utilisation time values of the hearing aid.

6.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of data sets comprise respective data representing values of signal processing parameters of the predetermined algorithm.

7.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the persistent data space is arranged in one or several memory device(s) selected from the group consisting of: (EEPROM, EPROM, Flash Memory, RAM powered by a back-up voltage).

8.   (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein persistent data space is arranged in a single external EEPROM device and each data set of the plurality of data sets is placed in a separate memory-page of the external EEPROM.

9.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein each data set of the plurality of data sets is written to the persistent data space at regular time intervals, the time interval being between 5 minutes and 60 minutes.

10.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one data variable is stored within the persistent data space in a storage area separate from the respective storage areas of the plurality of data sets.

11.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein each data set comprises a data variable indicating whether that data set is the valid data set.

12.   (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the data variables of the plurality of data sets are represented by respective counter values.

13.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein each data set of the plurality of data sets is associated with an error detection or error correction code within the persistent data space.

14.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of data sets are constituted by a first and a second data set, and

the at least one data variable comprises a single binary data variable indicating the valid data set.

15.   (Original) A hearing aid comprising a persistent data space and a processor adapted to perform a method of saving data according to claim 1.

16.   (Currently Amended) A hearing aid adapted to store values of hearing associated variables in a persistent memory device during normal use of said hearing aid, the hearing aid comprising:

> an input signal channel providing an input signal,
>
> a processor adapted to:
>
> process the input signal according to a predetermined algorithm to generate a processed
>> output signal,
>
> generate a first data set representing a value or values of one or several hearing aid
>> associated variable(s),
>
> ~~writing~~ write the first data set to a first memory segment within the persistent memory
>> device,
>
> ~~generating~~ generate a second data set representing an updated value or values of the one
>> or several hearing aid associated variable(s),

writing ~~writing~~ write the second data set to a second memory segment within the persistent

memory device,

selectively ~~indicating~~ indicate the first or the second data set as a valid data set by setting

a data variable value in a third memory segment in the persistent memory device.

17.   (Original) A hearing aid according to claim 16, wherein the persistent memory device is

a serial EEPROM.

18.   (Original) A hearing aid according to claim 17, wherein each of first, second and third

memory segments is placed in a separate memory-page of the serial EEPROM.

19-22. (Canceled)

23.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein one of the value or

values associated with the first data set, and one of the updated value or values associated with

the second data set, correspond to a same parameter.

24.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the parameter is

selected from the group consisting of a preset switch operation, a volume control operation, and

a variable for use in a signal processing algorithm.

25.   (Previously Presented) A hearing aid according to claim 16, wherein one of the value or

values associated with the first data set, and one of the updated value or values associated with

the second data set, correspond to a same parameter.

26.   (Previously Presented) A hearing aid according to claim 25, wherein the parameter is

selected from the group consisting of a preset switch operation, a volume control operation, and

a variable for use in a signal processing algorithm.